

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



RIVER BOATING

LOWER VERDE RIVER

Bartlett Dam to Fort McDowell Reservation

RANGER DISTRICT

Cave Creek Ranger Station
40202 N. Cave Creek Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
Phone (480) 595-3300 Fax (480) 595-3342

RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Fishing, water activities, camping and wildlife observation

RIVER-ACCESS POINTS (RAP)

Riverside RAP: (Elevation 1600 feet) **From Carefree:** Take Cave Creek Road 7 miles to Bartlett Road/Forest Road (FR) 19 (paved). Turn right and travel 13 miles. Just before reaching Jojoba Boating Site, FR 19 becomes a maintained gravel road. Follow it south for another three miles to Riverside Campground. **Facilities:** Vault toilets, grills and picnic tables.

Needle Rock RAP: (Elevation 1550 feet) From the intersection of Shea and Pima Road, drive north on Pima Road for 11 miles. Turn east on Dynamite Road and travel 3 miles to where it merges with Rio Verde Drive. Follow Rio Verde Drive for another 9½ miles to Forest Road (FR) 20, and turn left. Follow FR 20 for 3 miles to Needle Rock at the river.

Facilities: Vault toilets, grills and picnic tables.

Box Bar RAP:

There is no established RAP in this area, but places to take out boats can be located if done ahead of time. Do not continue onto the Fort McDowell Reservation.

ATTRACTIONS

- The Verde River has many species of game fish, such as Small-mouth & Largemouth bass, Carp, Channel and Flathead Catfish.
- Beautiful verdant shores with towering cliffs
- Wildlife along this riparian area is abundant

CONSIDERATIONS

- Approximately 800 c.f.s. is an adequate minimum flow. It is possible, however, to run the river at lower levels.
- As discharge from the dam increases, so does the power of the water. Flows up to 5,000 c.f.s. can be run **if properly prepared**.
- It is difficult to generalize about this river, since much depends on the time of the year, water levels, boats involved and the skills of the river boater.
- During high-water periods, watch for rapids and strainers (trees blocking the channel, allowing water to pass but nothing else). **IF IN DOUBT, SCOUT!!**
- Generally this river is suitable for all types of canoes and kayaks so long as the boater has experience with moving water.
- There is **NO drinking water** available at any of the RAPs.
- No trash service: **If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- Continuing onto the Fort McDowell Reservation is not allowed. Contact the tribal authorities for more information.
- Endangered species closure posted below Bartlett Dam. It is in effect between December 1 and June 30 each year. No land access, stopping, disembarking and/or noise are allowed if traveling by boat.

NEAREST COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Carefree, Cave Creek & Scottsdale: All services

Rio Verde: Grocery items and fuel

RELATED INFORMATION

- Verde River Recreation Guide*, Jim Slingluff
- For river-level information, contact Salt River Project's recorded message (602) 236-5929 or www.srpnet.com